

Icebreaker

What's your favorite Christmas movie? Why?

Do you know someone for whom Christmas is a sad time? Do you know someone with a heavy heart these days?

Jesus, the Savior Has Come

*She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name **Jesus**, because he will **save** his people from their sins."*

Matthew 1:21 NIV

A savior is only needed if someone needs to be saved.

Read **Luke 7:11-16**. What stands out to you from this story? What do you learn about Jesus?

Read **Luke 4:16-22**. We saw on Sunday that when Jesus quoted Isaiah 61, he intentionally stopped short of the line talking about God's vengeance. What does that mean to you?

For the Jewish people of Jesus' day, stopping before that line would have communicated that God's peace and comfort can come through Jesus now **before** evil is resolved. What difference does that make?

For the Jewish people of Jesus' day, stopping before that line would have meant that God was offering comfort, peace, joy, and help to all people, even those who had been considered enemies. What difference does that make?

Read **Luke 1:26-38** and **Luke 2:8-19**. The story of Christmas is a story of an incredible blessing to the world, but also a heavy burden on one young girl. When you read these stories what emotions do you imagine Mary was feeling?

What promises did the angel make to Mary and the shepherds?

Consider Mary throughout the years of Jesus' life. From the moment she saw the angel, she would have many times of joys and pains culminating in the death and resurrection of her son. At every one of those moments, she would have a choice to make: get stuck in the moment or remember the promises. How do you handle those moments?

What promises about Jesus do you need most this Christmas?

What about someone you know?

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